

Poinsettia Orders for Christmas!

Poinsettia Order Form/Gifts for ELCA Hunger Appeal

It's time for the annual poinsettia sale! Choose the size and color of poinsettia, complete the In Memory of / In Honor of / To the Glory of God section below, and include your name and telephone number (in case we have questions). Attach your check to this completed form and place it in the offering plate or the church office. You may prefer to give a gift to offset hunger rather than purchase a plant, or you may do both.

PRICES

(6 in. single) \$10

(7 in. double) \$15

(8 in. triple) \$20

COLORS

_____ Red _____ White _____ Burgundy _____ Red/White Speckled

_____ Red _____ White _____ Burgundy _____ Red/White Speckled

_____ Red _____ White _____ Burgundy _____ Red/White Speckled

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

My Name _____ Phone: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God _____

We must receive your order no later than Sunday, November 5. THANK YOU for participating!

Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share: 2017 Stewardship Campaign

"Declare how much God has done for you." – Luke 8:39

"We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard!" – Acts 4:20

We all have stories to tell: humorous happenings, learning experiences, news about our families, triumphs and tragedies, and plans for the future. And as the people of God, we have stories to tell about what God has done for us and about the difference that God's grace has made in our lives. Sometimes we are less aware of these stories until they are coaxed out of us—but they are there, part of whom we are.

That's not all. Whether we know it or not, we also have stories to tell about what God has done *through* us—stories about how God has used us to make a difference in the lives of others. Getting to know those stories makes us even more aware of God's grace. God has given us so much—and the gifts of God are for sharing.

The Bible is a collection of stories about people with gifts to share—stories about people whose lives were so changed by God that they were able to make a difference in the lives of others. In October, we will be focused on *storytelling* and on *giving*—and to think of both storytelling and giving as grateful responses to the grace of God.

Commitment Sunday is November 12.

The Synod requests that this article, from the Call Process Handbook, be published in this month's newsletter.

Congregational Ethics: Members Relating to Former Pastors

We believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when a clergy person is called to the office of pastor. We also believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when it is time for that pastor to accept another call; including the call into retirement. How the congregation responds to previous pastors is critical for the health of the congregation and the entire Church. Unhealthy expectations from a congregation of a previous pastor will negatively impact the congregation's ability to receive the ministry of the pastor(s) that follow.

Congregational members make and maintain loving and caring relationships with their pastors and their family members. Within the realm of friendship, it is appropriate to continue such relationships. Hospitality is always proper. It is not appropriate to engage them in discussions or to seek their advice concerning congregational matters or the current pastor.

The title of "Pastor" is appropriate for the person who has been called to your congregation. While that person serves you, it is appropriate to address him/her by "Pastor." Once that person ceases to hold the congregational office of pastor, all the responsibilities of that office are removed from him/her and the title of pastor is no longer appropriate to use for that person. Technically, they are still "Reverend" and are still a clergy person, but not your pastor.

The members should not turn to a former pastor at emotional and ceremonial times with expectations that the person will perform any pastoral acts, i.e. weddings, funerals, baptisms, home communions, etc. What is important at these times is that we know God is with us and blesses us. We are baptized children of God. We each have a relationship with God. The challenge is to indeed trust God and God's presence in our lives. These times are special opportunities to allow the called pastor to minister to you and, thereby, build relationship with you.

Whether it is a pastor who has been called by the congregation or an interim under contract, it is the responsibility of each member to love them, forgive them, and to turn to them for pastoral leadership. The concern of not knowing, or being known, by the "new" pastor is each member's responsibility to address.

We've Got a Mystery!

Can you help Carolyn Ridgely solve the mystery of the copper pot?

There is a copper pot in the Fireside Room—take a look at it. It was left on the concrete slab when the building was taken down on the west side of the church a few years ago. It was totally black, and I thought that it was an old cast iron pot. Obviously it wasn't and cleaned up nicely. Do you know if this has some sort of history with our church? Any ideas or suggestions on how we should use it, where it should be placed, or just what to do with it?



-Submitted by Carolyn Ridgely